



Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [13] bridging pages 4 and 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

[13] The invention will be described in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a schematic illustration of a bracket placement device constructed in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 illustrates a bracket placement device constructed in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a schematic illustration of a bracket placement method of the present invention with a bracket placement device of the present invention engaged with a coordinated bracket;

FIG. 4 illustrates a bracket placement method of the present invention with a bracket placement device of the present invention in use;

FIG. 5 illustrates a bracket placement method of the present invention with a bracket placement device of the present invention engaged with a bracket;

FIG. 6 illustrates a bracket placement device of the present invention with a mirror on one end;

FIG. 7 illustrates a bracket placement device of the present invention with a dental scaler on one end;

FIG. 8 ~~illustrates a dental stop according to an embodiment of the present invention;~~ illustrates a bracket placement device of the present invention with an opening device on one end;

FIG. 9 ~~illustrates a kit according to an embodiment of the present invention;~~ is a schematic illustration of a bracket placement method of the present invention with a bracket placement device of the present invention engaged with a coordinated bracket;

FIG. 10 ~~illustrates a bracket placement device of the present invention with an opening device on one end; and~~ illustrates a dental stop according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 11 ~~is a schematic illustration of a bracket placement method of the present invention with a bracket placement device of the present invention engaged with a coordinated bracket.~~ illustrates a kit according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Please replace paragraph [44] on page 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

[44] A bracket placement device 800 of the present invention may be constructed as illustrated in FIG. 8. Device 800 has a vertical shaft 802 and a horizontal bracket engaging means 804. The identifiers “vertical” and “horizontal” are for illustrative purposes only and refer to the typical orientation of device 800 when in use. Horizontal bracket engaging means 804 is shown joined to vertical shaft 802 with vertical shaft 802 ~~off-center~~ offset to allow for device 800 to be comfortably and easily inserted into a coordinated bracket. Horizontal bracket engaging means 804 may be of various sizes, for example, approximately 0.1 to 0.2 inches, preferably approximately 0.16 inches, in height, approximately 2-4 mm in width or depth, and approximately 5-15 mm, preferably approximately 10 mm, in length. The ~~x-plane of horizontal~~ x-direction of bracket engaging means 804 is identified as element 814 and the ~~y-plane~~ y-direction is identified as ~~plane~~ element 816. In embodiments of the present invention, vertical shaft 802 may be formed in various locations along either the ~~x-plane~~ x-direction or the ~~plane~~ y-direction to form an ~~off-center~~ offset junction with horizontal bracket engaging means 804 to allow for insertion of device 800 into various types and sizes of brackets. For example, in an embodiment of the present invention a vertical shaft may be off-set approximately 3 mm from one edge of a 4mm wide horizontal bracket engaging means, and would thus be offset about 1 mm ~~off-center~~.

Please replace paragraph [48] on page 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

[48] In use, horizontal bracket engaging means 908 is inserted into arch wire slot 912 so that contacting surface 922 of bracket engaging means 908 abuts a contacting surface 924 of arch wire slot 912 along the length of contacting surface 924. Contacting surface 922 is offset by a distance A in the x-direction, indicated by double-head arrow 926, from vertical shaft 906. Horizontal bracket engaging means 908 is parallel to arch wire slot 912 in the horizontal dimension. Bracket 902 is placed against tooth 904, preferably on the facial aspect of tooth 904, and moved into a proper position. A suitable dental or orthodontic adhesive is used to hold bracket 902 in place. To determine proper horizontal placement of bracket 902, the user identifies the long axis of the tooth and aligns bracket 902 and vertical shaft 906 along the long axis of the tooth. For proper vertical placement, the user identifies the desired vertical placement for the particular tooth and bracket and aligns the band 910 that corresponds to the desired vertical placement with incisal edge 918 of tooth 904. In various brackets used in the methods of the present invention, an opening device (such as shown in FIG. 8, opening device 808) may be used for various purposes including being used to manipulate moving parts on certain orthodontic brackets, including opening and closing a slide 920. Slide 920 provides increased comfort to a patient and covers arch wire slot 912. An example of a bracket containing such a slide may be found in the DAMON SYSTEMTM sold byOrmco Corporation.